

# Accessible Hunting and Fishing in Nantahala National Forest



Hunting and fishing – traditional, time-honored sports – are popular in the Nantahala National Forest. Outside of developed recreation areas, fishing and hunting are permitted throughout the forest. While the U.S. Forest Service manages the habitat in the national forest, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regulates both hunting and fishing. State licenses are required.

The commission annually issues a publication listing regulations and license information. The Regulations Digest is available by calling 888-248-6834 and online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org), select “Licensing.”



Many game animals, including white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and gray squirrel, thrive in the forest. The Forest Service provides a variety of hunting opportunities, including accessible hunting in the below locations. Contact the ranger district offices for more information about these areas.

- **Cheoah Ranger District:** In the following areas, there are fields adjacent to or a short distance from the road: Snowbird Road; Santeetlah Road; Tatham Gap Road; Long Hungry Road; Farley Cove Road; Big Fat Gap Road; and Rattler Ford Road. Parking is available in wide areas along the roads.
- **Nantahala Ranger District:** In the following areas, there are fields adjacent to or a short distance from the road: Moses Creek Road; Sugar Creek Road; Cold Springs Road; Blue Valley Road; Little Yellow Mountain; Bull Pen Road; Rich Gap Road; Moss Gap Road; Shingle Tree Road; Board Tree Road; Forest Service Road 711; Cowee Bald Road; Connelly’s Creek Road; Upper Nantahala Road; and Deep Gap Road. Parking is available in wide areas along the roads.
- **Tusquitee Ranger District:** In the following areas, there are fields adjacent to or a short distance from the road: Perry Gap Road; Deep Gap Road; Fires Creek Road; Nelson Ridge Road; Tuni Gap Road; Beech Creek Road; Panther Top Road; Powerline Cove Road; Copper Creek Road; and Davis Creek Road. Parking is available in wide areas along the roads.



The Nantahala National Forest is a haven for fishing. Cold water, mountain streams are prime habitat for brown, rainbow and native brook trout. All national forest streams are “wild trout waters,” unless classified and posted otherwise. Accessible fishing piers on small lakes and ponds include Balsam Lake, Cherokee Lake, and Cheoah Work Center Pond. Accessible piers on large lakes include Jackrabbit Mountain at Lake Chatuge and Massey Branch at Santeetlah Lake.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

